

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are all the claims pending in the application. Some of the claims have been amended in a non-narrowing manner to correct informalities.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-41 and 51 are allowed. The Examiner objected to claims 48 and 49 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allow the claims if rewritten in independent form. Applicant herein traverses the rejection of the base claim and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection to claims 48 and 49 and to allow them in their present form.

II. Specification

The disclosure and claims 42, 51, and 52 are objected to because of informalities. Applicant herein corrects the informalities and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

III. Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 42-47, 50, 52, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Buchanan (US Pat. No. 6,078,771). Applicant traverses.

In view of the substantial similarities among claims 42, 52, and 53, Applicant discusses only claim 42 but respectfully submits that the following remarks are equally applicable to claims 52 and 53. The exemplary features of claim 42, include, *inter alia*:

a shaft bearing member for receiving said rotation shaft of said developer bearing member; and...
wherein the position of said thickness restricting unit is determined by **said** shaft bearing member.

Buchanan fails to teach "a shaft bearing member for receiving said rotation shaft of said developer bearing member...wherein the position of said thickness restricting unit is determined

by **said** shaft bearing member.” The Examiner noted that “the position of the thickness restricting unit is determined by the shaft bearing member...[and] the position is maintained [in Buchanan] by the back section 18, see Col. 5, lines 25-30.” (Office Action, pages 2-3). Unlike the claimed features, Figs. 2 and 5 in Buchanan clearly show that the back section 18 does not receive “said rotation shaft of said developer bearing member.” The back section 18 in Buchanan only receives the stop post 12, retention block 16, and retention post 14, and Buchanan further teaches that all these parts may be constructed as a unitary piece (col. 5, lines 17-19; Fig. 4). Not only does Buchanan fail to teach the claimed features, indeed, Buchanan does not even foresee a situation where the back section 18 would receive the “rotation shaft of said developer bearing member.”

Accordingly, Buchanan does not anticipate claims 42, 52, and 53. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of independent claim 42 and its dependent claims 43-47 and 50, and independent claims 52 and 53 as well.

Additionally, various requirements of dependent claim 45 are not met in the prior art, including *at least the following*:

 said thickness restricting unit has a plurality of holes;
 said shaft bearing member has a plurality of protrusions;
 each of said protrusions is fit into a corresponding one of said holes; and
 a first protrusion among said plurality of protrusions has a shaft bearing hole for receiving said rotation shaft.

The back section 18 of Fig. 2 in Buchanan does not show “a first protrusion among said plurality of protrusions has a shaft bearing hole for receiving said rotation shaft.” As discussed above, the back section 18 in Buchanan does not even receive the developer roller 124 and logically would not have “a shaft bearing hole for receiving said rotation shaft” of the developer

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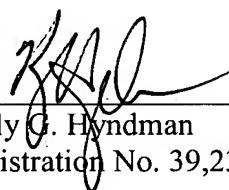
roller 124. The back section 18 in Buchanan only receives the stop post 12, retention block 16, and retention post 14, as mentioned earlier (col. 5, lines 17-19; Figs. 2 and 4). Therefore, claim 45 is not anticipated by Buchanan, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claim 45.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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